price, movement and distribution control. The Government intends to move towards a de-regulatory regime in fertilizer sector in a phased manner after taking into account its fiscal capacity on the one hand and simultaneously making available fertilizers to the farmers at a reasonable price.

Cancelling of Indo-Oman Urea Project

631. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item, "India okays urea project after Oman cancels it", published in the Newstime dated 21st June, 2000;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto;

(c) the reasons for Government of Oman cancelling the project;

(d) how the project was to be financed; and

(e) whether the persons responsible for delaying the project have been identified; if so, what steps are proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government have approved the revised and restructured Oman India Fertilizer Project (OMIFCO) on 20.6.2000 subject to speedy resolution of certain outstanding issues. Concerns of the Government of Sultanate of Oman about delay in clearance of the restructured project have now been set at rest and the Sultanate of Oman has reiterated its commitment to assist the Indian sponsors in speedy resolution of all outstanding issues. The total project cost of US $ 969 million has a debt component of US $ 649 million which will be financed by a consortium of international banks. The time taken in clearing the project was because of the need to revise and

restructure the project in the light of declining international prices of urea and other reasons and is not attributable to any person or persons.

Haldia Fertilizer

632. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) by when and with what project cost Haldia fertilizer was started;

(b) how many officers and workers are engaged in it at present;

(c) what is the quality of fertilizer produced by the company; and

(d) what is the total loss or profit, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) The Haldia Fertilizer Project of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. could not be commissioned despite its mechnical completion in 1979. The initial estimated project cost of Rs. 88.03 crore was later revised to Rs. 281.96 crore in 1981. A total expenditure of Rs. 1418.10 crore has been incurred on the Project upto 31.3.2000, which has a total workforce of 1409.

Recovery of subsidy given to Fertilizer producers

†633. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to recover the subsidy given to public and private sector fertilizer/urea producers;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the names of those public and private sector fertilizer producing companies from which subsidy is to be recovered and the total amount targeted to be recovered; and

(d) whether a Parliamentary Standing Committee has also submitted its suggestions in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.